Roles of Member States and European Institutions in Case of Crisis

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Summary

- Legal background
- Role of the European Institutions and Member States
- Examples
Legal background

- Regulation (EC) No 178/2002
  - Art. 55 General plan for food/feed crisis management: ... where risks to human health not likely to be adequately managed solely by way of application of emergency measures...

- Regulation (EC) No 882/2004
  - Art. 4 Competent authorities: ...shall ensure that they have contingency plans

- Commission Decision 2004/478/EC
  - General plan for food/feed crisis management
Role of European Institutions

- Ensure that competent authority of the MS concerned takes the necessary measures

- Assessment of the measures

- Ensure that competent authorities provide the necessary information through the Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food (RASFF)

- If need be, can take a safeguard measure to protect public health
Role of European Commission

- **Information to Third Countries**

- **Assist the competent authority in the management of the situation**

- **Provide recommendations to ensure a uniform enforcement approach**
  - guidelines
  - important role of EFSA (public health aspect) and ECDC
  - role of EURL (analytical aspects)

- **guarantees to third countries:** to enable them to lift the measures

- **Lessons to be learned**
Examples


2 peaks:

- 1996: BSE is transmissible to humans
- 2000: rapid tests implemented = more cases detected

- Loss of consumer confidence, drop in meat consumption, huge economic impact

- Wide political consequences: creation of DG SANCO then EFSA
**E. Coli** outbreak: May-July 2011 actions

- **COMMISSION**
  - Coordination
  - Assistance: EURL, EFSA, ECDC
  - Legal acts
  - Audit / inspections

- **MEMBER STATES**
  - Epidemiological investigations
  - Treatment of cases

- **JOINT:** Communication / Information
Dioxin/PCB incident in Belgium - 1999

- Small scale incident / huge economic consequences

- Increase the safety of feed and food in the EU as regards dioxins significantly

- Measures following the Belgian contamination incident:
  - Setting maximum levels for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in a wide range of feed and food
  - Setting action levels (lower than maximum levels) triggering investigations
  - Setting performance criteria for the methods
  - Creation of an EURL for dioxins and PCBs
**Dioxin incident in Germany – December 2010**

- Measures applicable as from 16 September 2012:
  - approval of certain feed business operators (fats and oils)
  - segregation of the products for technical use from those for feed and food.
  - mandatory dioxin monitoring of high risk products (fats and oils),
  - laboratories to report positive results on dioxins to the competent authorities
Melamine in feed and food from China

- 15/09/2008 press reports: presence of melamine in infant formula

- 19/09/2008: request to EFSA for urgent scientific advice assessment

- 24/09/2008 EFSA statement on melamine: children with high daily consumption of milk toffee, chocolate or biscuits containing high levels of milk powder would exceed the TDI.

- 25/09/2008: meeting with Member States

- 26/09/2008: Commission adopts emergency measures:
  - Ban on all products originating from China for infants and young children containing milk or milk products
  - Impose 100% testing on all imported feed and food from China containing milk and milk powder and random testing on such products already on the EU market
Communication during outbreaks

Verification of information by CA essential even if slowing down transmission: fully respected by RASFF and EWRS during crisis
Backed by sound scientific advice or risk assessment

Involvement of communicators to assess and anticipate possible reactions of press/general public

Advanced announcement to all parties involved

Development of iRASFF online platform to increase speed, availability and interactivity of information.
Example of good cooperation/communication: BSE case in goat in FR (2004-2005)

First case of BSE detected in goat under natural conditions in October 2004 by French researchers

Early, convergent and simultaneous communication (press releases) from Commission and French CA on this case

Harmonised management measures backed by EFSA advice

Consequence: no media storm and no subsequent negative reaction of the public opinion
Thank you for your attention!